

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6225

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR BF

SUBJ: ADDERLEY VIEWS ON CARIBBEAN BASIN SUMMIT CONFERENCE

1. IN COURSE OF DECEMBER 2 CONVERSATION, AMBASSADOR RAISED WITH MINEXTAFF ADDERLEY REPORTS WE HAD SEEN OF EFFORTS BY GUYANESE FONMIN RAMPHAL TO CONVENE "SUMMIT CONFERENCE" OF CARIBBEAN BASIN NATIONS IN TRINIDAD NEXT SPRING. AMBASSADOR ASKED OF ADDERLEY HAD ANY VIEWS ON PROPOSAL.

2. ADDERLEY RESPONDED THAT FRANKLY HE HAD "NO IDEA WHAT GUYANESE ARE AFTER" IN THIS REGARD. HE SAID HIS IMPRESSION WAS THAT NEW YORK "PREPARATORY" MEETING HAD BEEN A BUST, AND DID NOT THINK TRINIDAD CONFERENCE WOULD OFFER MUCH OF INTEREST TO BAHAMAS. HE SPECULATED THAT GUYANESE, WHO HE SAID HAD APPOINTED THEMSELVES LEADERS OF ENGLISH-SPEAKING CARIBBEAN, "WINNING OUT OVER THE JAMAICANS", WANTED TO INCREASE SCOPE OF THEIR SUPPOSED INFLUENCE BY CREATING CARIBBEAN BASIN CONCEPT AND BRINGING ADDITIONAL NATIONS INTO THE FOLD. HE EXPRESSED AMUSEMENT AT CARICOM SURPRISE WITH THE ALACRITY WITH WHICH HAITI ACCEPTED OFFER TO SIGN ON TO EXPANDED REGIONALISM CONCEPT INTRODUCED AT HEADS OF GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE HELD IN ST. LUCIA LAST SUMMER.

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3. ADDERLEY INDICATED, AS HE HAS BEFORE, BAHAMIAN HESITATIONS

ABOUT REGIONALISM. ONE EXAMPLE HE GAVE WAS JAMAICAN PROPOSAL TO SET UP DUTY-FREE AREAS FOR TOURISTS: HE SAID TRINIDAD, FOR INSTANCE, COULD RECIPROCATATE BUT BAHAMAS, BECAUSE OF ITS LACK OF INCOME AND OTHER TAXES, NEVER COULD. HE ALSO MENTIONED PROPOSAL AT HEALTH MINISTERS CONFERENCE HELD IN NASSAU LAST SUMMER FOR REGIONAL LABORATORY TO BE LOCATED IN TRINIDAD TO WHICH REGIONAL NATIONS COULD SEND MEDICAL SAMPLES FOR ANALYSIS, POINTING TO OBVIOUS FACT THAT IT MADE MUCH MORE SENSE FOR BAHAMAS TO SEND SUCH SAMPLES TO MIAMI.

4. IN SUM, ADDERLEY SAID HE REALLY KNEW NOTHING ABOUT CARIBBEAN BASIN CONCEPT, BUT INDICATED THAT SUCH REGIONAL APPROACHES "GO AGAINST THE STREAM OF CURRENT EVENTS", AT LEAST AS THE BAHAMAS SEE THEM.

5. COMMENT BY AMBASSADOR: MY HUNCH IS THAT GCOB WOULD PROBABLY NOT REFUSE TO ATTEND FURTHER CARIBBEAN REGIONAL CONCLAVES BUT AT THIS STAGE SEES ITSELF, AS WEALTHIEST STATE IN THE AREA, AS HAVING MORE TO LOSE THAN GAIN BY ANY CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH REGIONAL GROUPINGS.
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